

DRAFT

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SOLID WASTE

Proposed Changes



Residential Recycling

Proposed new programs and policies will increase residential recycling opportunities.

- The Solid Waste Management Plan proposes that:*
- the types of recyclables collected at the curb be expanded to include plastic bottles, mixed paper and cardboard;
 - innovative programs be developed to reduce toxicity of the waste stream by recycling NiCad batteries and used electronics; and
 - suitable recycling alternatives be developed for residents of multiunit buildings.

Business Recycling



The county plans to ask businesses to recycle more!

- The Solid Waste Management Plan proposes that:*
- large businesses continue required recycling with expanded recyclable material requirements; and
 - fewer businesses be exempted from recycling requirements.

Waste Collection



Proposed oversight of county collection service will ensure quality service for residents.

- The Solid Waste Management Plan proposes that:*
- Fairfax County serves as the contracting entity with private haulers providing service in the county;
 - private haulers still collect most waste in the county;
 - county oversight would result in better service at a consistent price; and
 - fewer trash trucks on the roads may reduce emissions.



Construction/Demolition/Debris

The county proposes increasing recycling of construction/demolition/debris (CDD).

- The Solid Waste Management Plan proposes that:*
- the public receive more information about CDD capacity issues to encourage recycling;
 - the county works with other jurisdictions to foster a regional approach to disposal;
 - debris continues to be disposed in suitable in-county and out-of-county landfills; and
 - the county supports private recycling opportunities, and the county-operated disposal sites have the ability to recycle CDD.



Disposal

The county plans to use the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility as the primary disposal mechanism.

- The Solid Waste Management Plan proposes that:*
- out-of-county landfills will provide backup support; and
 - the I-66 Transfer Station will continue to operate serving the north and central portion of the county.

Funding



The funding impacts of these proposed changes are anticipated to be minimal.

- Retiring the bonds for the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility will reduce waste disposal costs; however, the cost of out-of-county landfills and composting facilities is expected to rise.
- Consolidation will make the collection system more efficient, to provide better service to residents at a consistent price throughout the County.

Finalizing the Plan

A public hearing will be held to finalize the plan in conjunction with a Board of Supervisors meeting in May.

WHAT IS THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The Solid Waste Management Plan provides an integrated management system and long-range plan for all trash and recycling for the next twenty years. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality requires jurisdiction to complete a new 20-year solid waste management plan by July 1, 2004.



When implemented, the plan will provide a system that will meet the needs of Fairfax residents, businesses and institutions as our waste collection, recycling and disposal needs grow in future years. The plan will also help prevent problems that could harm our quality of life.

★ PUBLIC INPUT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS ★



County staff has been meeting with community groups about the development of this plan since April 2003 and will continue meeting through May 2004. Outreach efforts, which included meetings, exhibits at large events such as Celebrate Fairfax, a Website and a survey, have reached over 6,500 county residents.

Residents identified the following as key issues facing our solid waste system:

- Residential waste collection fees and service levels vary across Fairfax County. This means some residents pay more for less service.
- Our local ordinances do not adequately address service issues that residents face. Complaints against waste collection companies have risen sharply.
- A county-wide strategy needs to be developed for removing brush and debris after major storms.
- Some areas of the county are served by many different trash trucks on the same street each day. A strategy is needed to reduce the number of waste collection vehicles in the county.
- The three construction and demolition debris landfills in the county will be full or closed in the next ten years.
- Residents want an expanded recycling program.
- Additional public outreach is needed to educate residents and businesses about recycling and disposal options.



Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 448
Fairfax, VA 22035

Phone: 703.324.5230
TTY: 1-800-282-1120
Email: swmp@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/swmp

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FAIRFAX COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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PLANNING THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE

FAIRFAX COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
703.324.5230 (TTY 1-800-282-1120)
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpw/es/swmp
swmp@fairfaxcounty.gov